

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

15. A tissue stapler for deploying a staple into tissue, comprising a tubular member having a tip section, a trigger, and a connecting rod between said tip section and trigger located within said tubular member, said tip section comprising a staple deploying member located on said tubular member and formed about said tip section, a flange section located on said connecting rod having a flange member adapted to hold a staple between said flange member and said staple deploying member, said connecting rod and said tip section slidably engaged by said trigger to slid said connecting rod toward said tip section thereby deploying said staple.

16. A stapler as claimed in claim 15, wherein said connecting rod being rotatable within said tubular member, and said flange section being mated with an opening in said staple in one dimension, wherein said staple is placed over said flange member and wherein, upon rotation of said connecting rod, said staple being held against said deploying member by said flange member.

17. A stapler as claimed in claim 16, wherein said flange member having a generally oval shape and said opening in said staple having a mated oval shape.

18. A stapler as claimed in claim 15, wherein said trigger comprises a lever for moving said connecting rod against said tip section.

19. A stapler as claimed in claim 18, wherein said trigger further comprises a spring mechanism between said lever and said connecting rod to hold said connecting rod against said deploying member until movement of said lever.

20. A stapler as claimed in claim 15, wherein said staple comprising a plurality of tissue engaging prongs that are crimped together at least partially through said tissue by said deploying member.

21. A stapler as claimed in claim 15, wherein said deploying member having a generally parabolic shape.

22. A stapler as claimed in claim 15, wherein said deploying member having a plurality of slidable finger members being actuated by said trigger to slide axially over said connecting rod and flange member to crimp said staple.

Claim 23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Cancelled)

25. A staple and a stapler for stapling tissue, said stapler comprising a tubular member having a tip section, a trigger, and a connecting rod between said tip section and trigger located within said tubular member, said tip section comprising a staple crimping member located on said tubular member and formed about said tip section, a flange section located on said connecting rod having a flange member adapted to hold a staple between said flange member and said 'staple crimping member, said connecting rod and said tip section slidably engaged by said trigger to slide said connecting rod toward said tip section thereby crimping said staple; said staple comprising a ring member defining an opening therein, said opening being

mated to fit over said flange member in one dimension and a plurality of tissue engaging members located on said ring member to pierce into tissue upon crimping by said stapler.

26. A staple and a stapler as claimed in claim 25, wherein said flange member and said opening having mated shapes.

27. A staple and a stapler as claimed in claim 25, wherein said connecting rod being rotatable within said tubular member, and said flange section being mated with an opening in said staple in one dimension, wherein said staple is placed over said flange member and wherein, upon rotation of said connecting rod, said staple being held against said crimping member by said flange member.

Claims 28-32 (Cancelled)